

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claims 2-11 and 22-24 have been amended. Claims 1, 12-21 have been cancelled. New claims 25-31 have been added. Therefore, claims 2-11 and 22-31 have been elected for prosecution and are presented for examination.

The specification has been objected to due to various informalities. Applicants submit that the specification has been amended to correct the noted informalities.

Claims 7 and 24 have been objected to due to various informalities. Applicants submit that claims 7 and 24 have been amended to correct the noted informalities.

Applicants acknowledge that claims 7, 11 and 24 would be allowable if rewritten to include the base claims.

Claims 1-6, -10, 21 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by the Armani et al. (US 2004/0179573 A1). In addition, claim 22 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Armani et al. (US 2004/0179573 A1). Applicants submit that the above rejections have been obviated by the cancellation of claims 1 and 21, and the amendment of claims 11 and 24 to include their respective base claims. Thus, the claims are in condition for allowance as indicated by the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP



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